

Appendix A

Consultation Letters

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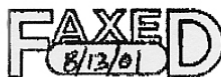
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"Managing and conserving natural, cultural, and recreational resources"



In reply, please refer to
SHPO-2001-2129 (7456)
more information requested

August 13, 2001

Laurie A. Woodall, Chairperson, Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee
Assistant Attorney General, Environmental Enforcement Section
Office of the Attorney General
1275 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Certificate of Environmental Compatibility Case No. 111: The Proposed Tucson
Electric Power Company (TEP) South Substation to Nogales Transmission Line, Pima and
Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona

Dear Ms. Woodall:

Thank you for having the committee's applicant (i.e., TEP) initiate consultation with this office regarding the above-mentioned state plan and associated certificate of environmental compatibility. The proposed plan includes three possible routes or alignments between the Sahuarita and Nogales areas that cross various federal, state, and private lands; the preferred route follows Ruby Road and the western slope of the Tumacacori Mountains, and the two alternative routes roughly parallel Interstate-19. Historian Bill Collins and I have reviewed the documents submitted and offer the following comments pursuant to the State Historic Preservation Act (i.e., A.R.S. § 41-861 to 41-864) and the committee's factors to be considered (i.e., A.R.S. § 40-360.06.A.5).

This plan also represents a federal undertaking, and the U.S. Department of Energy, as the lead federal agency, will consult directly with this office in regards to the National Historic Preservation Act. Our advice to the committee should not be interpreted or construed to infringe upon role of the lead federal agency regarding the scope and adequacy of identification efforts, eligibility determinations, effect findings, and treatment options.

Please inform the committee's applicants that this office normally has 30 working days in which to review state plans as stated in A.R.S. § 41-864. At the applicant's request, we have expeditiously reviewed the documents submitted on August 3, 2001.

The analysis of potential impacts to known historic properties (i.e., any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, traditional cultural place, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in the National or State Registers of Historic Places) resulted in a archaeological sensitivity map that also shows the general location of historic-period properties in relation to the proposed corridors. The map is a good visual tool for conveying the information that was gathered. However, the cultural assessment would have been greatly aided by having the archaeological consultant discuss the map's underlying assumptions and limitations, discuss the results, and provide conclusions and recommendations in relation to the proposed routes; My technical comments on the analysis and the map are presented on the attached page; we are not requesting revisions at this time.

The preferred route completely avoids two important historic properties, Tumacacori National Historic Landmark and Tubac Presidio State Historic Park. The two other

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alternative routes occur near enough to one or both of these properties to raise concerns about potential impacts, especially visual ones. Tumacacori, which was founded in 1753, was a Pima community organized around a Spanish mission; the first mission building at the site was built in 1757. Tubac Presidio was constructed in 1752 to protect Spanish colonists and the Pima attending the Missions at Tubac and Tumacacori. Both park managers have expressed concerns to this office about proposed nearby transmission lines. Furthermore, National Historic Landmarks, such as Tumacacori, showcase the very best properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

However, less is apparently known about the presence or absence of historic properties situated within or near the preferred route, relative to the two alternative routes. Thus, the absence of archaeologically sensitive areas on the map along the preferred route is likely due to the lack of previous archaeological survey and Native American consultation in this area and not necessarily the absence of such properties. For example, I would expect rock art sites, Archaic-period camp sites, and shrines to occur in settings such as those along the preferred route. In contrast, many historic building surveys and archaeological surveys have occurred as part of other state plans and federal undertakings located along the two alternative routes.

We agree in principle that avoidance and preservation-in-place is an appropriate treatment; in fact, the transmission line may help protect historic properties by inhibiting other kinds of development within the proposed corridor. However, the location of the poles and access roads is unknown at this time, and thus it is unclear if avoidance of all eligible properties present is feasible. Avoidance of archaeological sites usually entails the taking positive steps, such as erecting temporary fences and establishing buffer zones, to insure that plan-related, ground-disturbing activities, such as trench excavation and vehicular movement on unpaved roads, do not occur within the external boundaries of sites. Avoidance of historic-period resources generally entails taking precautions to ensure that the characteristics that contribute to property's eligibility are not impacted.

Given the identification effort to date and current planning stage, this office recommends that the preferred route be selected, because it will minimize and/or lessen impacts to known historic properties. We cannot complete the assessment the plan's effects and cannot concur with determination of impact until further studies and planning stages are completed. Unless all historic properties can be avoided, a determination of negative impacts is likely.

We offer the following stipulations for the committee's consideration:

- 1) The applicant will participate as a consulting party, on committee's behalf, with the lead federal agency, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the state and federal land-managing agencies in the federal compliance process (i.e., 36 C.F.R. 800) to reach a finding of effect and to resolve adverse effects, if any.
- 2) Should federal involvement in any part or all of this plan be removed or not occur, the applicant will continue to consult, on committee's behalf, with SHPO in the state compliance process to reach a determination of impact and resolve impacts, if any.

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- 3) The lead federal agency and/or the applicant on behalf of the committee, will consult with Indian tribes regarding the potential impacts to historic properties, particularly traditional cultural places, that may be present within or adjacent to the proposed corridor, and resolve adverse effects, if any. Such consultation should be done in a sensitive manner respectful of tribal sovereignty and concerns regarding confidentiality.
- 4) The applicant will include in the geographic area affected by the plan (i.e., area of potential effect), the final right-of-way and buffer zone, new and existing access roads, material source pits (if any), and equipment staging areas.
- 5) The applicant will sponsor the necessary studies to complete the identification effort as part of the federal or state compliance process. This may include a cultural resources survey, archaeological testing, or ethnographic study performed under the direction of professional that meets the Secretary of the Interior's qualification standards and permitting requirements of the appropriate land-managing entities.
- 6) If a historic property, cannot be avoided, the applicant will sponsor the necessary studies or take the appropriate actions to lessen or mitigate the impacts as part of the federal or state compliance process. This may include archaeological data recovery (i.e., excavations), archival research and structure documentation.
- 7) After construction, the applicant, in conjunction with the land-managing agency, if any, will allow Arizona Site Stewards, a volunteer-staffed SHPO program, to periodically inspect the sites present within the corridor for vandalism or damage.

We look forward to the lead federal agency initiating consultation regarding this undertaking and appreciate the committee's cooperation with this office in considering the effects of state plans on cultural resources situated in Arizona. If you have any questions, please contact me at (602) 542-7137 or electronically via mbilsbarrow@pr.state.az.us.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Bilsbarrow, RPA
Compliance Specialist/ Archaeologist
State Historic Preservation Office

attachment

cc. w/attachment

Bill Collins, SHPO

Daniel R. Elder, DRE & Associates; 8765 East Bear Place; Tucson, Arizona 85749

Ellen Russell, NEPA Document Manager, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27), U.S. Department of Energy;
1000 Independence Ave, SW; Washington, DC 20585

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General and Technical Comments on "Exhibit E-1: Historical and Archaeological Map for the TEP-Citizens Interconnect Project" prepared by Professional Archaeological Services and Technologies and DRE & Associates, dated February 2001

General Comments

- 1) Overall the map is a wonderful way of presenting the information gathered.
- 2) The method of assessing significance (i.e., site worth) based on site value, arbitrarily assigned from one and 10, multiplied by site area, which ranges from 0.1 to 438 acres, gives too much weight to size and is somewhat redundant. Site size is often related to site function, which is already included when considering site value. For example, habitation sites are usually larger than field house sites, and habitation sites were already valued higher than the field house sites. Furthermore, small sites dating to the Paleo-Indian or Archaic-periods are more or equal in importance as a large Hohokam habitation site.
- 3) The separation of archaeological sites from historic-period buildings as shown on the map is not completely clear. It appears the some historical buildings, such as Canoa Ranch, that may also have archaeological site numbers were treated as archaeological sites rather than as historic sites.
- 4) The lack of information on an area is not represented on the map and not discussed in the document. The archaeological sensitivity of areas that have not been surveyed or otherwise inventoried should be clearly marked as being of unknown sensitivity on the map.
- 5) The documentation lacks the consulting archaeologist's conclusions and recommendations regarding the individual routes. A summary of properties situated within or adjacent to each route would have been helpful.

Technical Comments

- 1) Two historic sites numbered 36 are present on the map in the vicinity of Nogales; The one situated in Nogales marks the Grimm House location.
- 2) The Titan II missile silo, which is a National Historic Landmark and situated north of Green Valley, is not marked on the map.



TETRA TECH, INC.

November 15, 2001

Mr. Gayle Koeninger
El Paso Natural Gas
7776 South Pointe Parkway West, Suite 185
Phoenix, AZ 85044

Subject: Proposed Tucson Electric Power Transmission Line Adjacent to an El
Paso Natural Gas Company Pipeline

Dear Mr. Koeninger:

We are currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement under the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) for a proposed Tucson Electric Power Company 345-kV transmission line in southern Arizona that overlaps approximately 50 miles with an El Paso Natural Gas pipeline right-of-way. Our environmental analysis will include a description of any particular environmental health and safety concerns that will be encountered in the area of overlap with the natural gas pipeline.

As such, your input in this area would be most helpful. We would be happy to provide you with additional design information as needed for your analysis. In addition, a description of any past experience you have with overlapping transmission line and gas pipeline right-of-ways would be helpful. For example, was cathodic protection for the pipeline required in the past? What specific construction or maintenance practices were required for the pipeline and/or transmission lines? What distance was maintained between the pipeline and the transmission lines?

To help identify the proposed right-of-way overlap, the referenced gas pipeline runs from approximately 8 miles west of Sahuarita, Arizona, extending south through a portion of the Coronado National Forest and continuing to just west of Nogales, Arizona. The proposed area of overlap is within Pima and Santa Cruz Counties.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future and thank you for your response. If you have any questions, please call me at (315) 682-3268 or (703) 931-9301 or email me at hmbblauer@erols.com. If you prefer to mail information to me, please use:

4640 Ringnecked Path
Manlius, NY 13104-9603

Sincerely,

Erica Rohlf for

Dr. H. Mark Blauer
Deputy Project Manager

cc: Ed Beck, Tucson Electric Power Company
Dr. Jerry Pell, DOE

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HMB.er